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August 5, 2009

**VIA HAND DELIVERY**

The Honorable Chairman and Members of the  
Hawaii Public Utilities Commission  
465 King Street, Room 103  
Kekuanaoa Building  
Honolulu, HI 96813

PUBLIC UTILITIES  
COMMISSION

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FILED

Re: Docket No. 2008-0274 -- Investigation Implementing Decoupling  
Mechanism: Request for Extension of Time to File Opening Briefs

The Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism of the State of Hawaii (DBEDT), through its Deputy Attorney General, requests an extension of time for the filing of the opening briefs in the above-captioned docket from August 24, 2009, to September 7, 2009.

On July 15, 2009, the Commission issued post-hearing information requests (IRs) prepared by its Consultant, the National Regulatory Research Institute (NRRI), and directed the HECO Companies to respond to the first six IRs within fourteen days from date of issue (i.e., July 29, 2009), and also directed all Parties to respond to the remaining IRs within twenty-eight days from date of issue (i.e., August 12, 2009). On July 31, 2009, the HECO Companies filed a request to the Commission for an extension of time for filing their responses to the IRs to August 7, 2009. The HECO Companies also requested an extension of time for the filing of all Parties' responses to the remaining IRs to August 24, 2009, as the Parties' responses will partly depend on review of the HECO Companies' responses to the first six IRs.

While DBEDT understands and does not object to the Companies' need for additional time, we note however that this particular adjustment has caused the Parties' responses to the post-hearing IRs to be due on the same day (August 24, 2009) as the opening briefs for this docket. If approved by the Commission, the Parties would not have the opportunity to review and evaluate the responses to the post-hearing IRs before their opening briefs are written. This would deprive the Commission and the Parties of the benefit of a full exploration and understanding of all the issues in order to produce the most thorough opening briefs on the relevant issues.

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In order to accord the HECO Companies the time they need to respond to the Commission's first six post hearing IRs , and also allow all parties the opportunity to fully respond to the remaining IRs (as well as allow the Parties to incorporate the material from the IRs into their opening briefs), DBEDT respectfully requests that the Commission grant an extension of time from August 24, 2009, to September 7, 2009, for the filing of opening briefs in this docket. We assume that all other, related deadlines would move by the same amount of time to accord the necessary interval between deadlines, but this is of course within the discretion of the Commission.

DBEDT sincerely appreciates the Commission's favorable consideration of this request.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Kinkley", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Gregg J. Kinkley  
Deputy Attorney General  
for the Department of Business, Economic  
Development, and Tourism  
State of Hawaii

cc: Service List